Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A composition ~~for use in targeting endothelial cells, tumor cells or other cells which express NP-1~~, which comprises a compound of the formula (I)

A-L-B (I)

in which

A is a monomer~~, multimer or polymer~~ of TKPPR, or a TKPPR analogue which specifically binds to NP-1 or cells that express NP-1 with avidity that is equal to or greater than TKPPR;

L is a linker; and

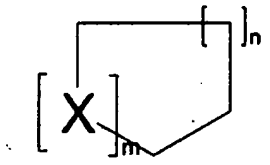
B is a phospholipid ~~substrate selected from the group consisting of B_1, a lipid able to bind the linker in a covalent or non-covalent manner and B_2, a non-lipid polymer able to bind the linker in a covalent manner~~.

Claims 2-22 (cancelled)

23. (original) A composition according to claim 1, in which L is a bond or is derived from: an alkyl chain C_1-C_{6000}, linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated, optionally interrupted or substituted by one or more groups such as: O, S, NR, OR, SR, COR, COOH, COOR, CONHR, CSNHR, C=O, S=O, $S(=O)_2$, $P=O(O)_2OR$, $P(O)_2(OR)_2$, halogens, or phenyl groups, optionally

substituted by one or more -NHR, -OR, -SR, -COR, -CONHR, -N-C=S, -N-C=O, halogens, in which R is H or an alkyl group C_1-C_4, linear or branched, optionally substituted by one or more — OH; such a chain can be interrupted or substituted by one or more cyclic groups C_3-C_9, saturated or unsaturated, optionally interrupted by one or more O, S or NR; by one or more groups such as: -NHR, -OR, -SR, -COR, -CONHR, or a phenyl group optionally substituted by one or more -NHR, -OR, -SR, -COR, -CONHR, -N-C=S, -N-C=O, halogens.

24. (original) A composition according to claim 23, in which the cyclic groups present in L are saturated or unsaturated, and correspond to the following general formula (III)



(III)

in which

n can range from 0 to 4;

m can range from 0 to 2;

X can be NH, NR, O, S or SR.

25. (original) A composition according to claim 23, in which the linker L is an oligopeptide comprising 1 to 100 natural or synthetic amino acids.

26. (original) A composition according to claim 25, in which the amino acids are selected from the group consisting of glycine, glutamic acid, aspartic acid, γ-amino-butyric acid and trans-4-aminomethyl-cyclohexane carboxylic acid.

27. (original) A composition according to claim 23, in which L is derived from difunctional PEG(polyethyleneglycol) derivatives.

28. (original) A composition according to claim 23, in which L is selected from the group consisting of: glutaric acid, succinic acid, malonic acid, oxalic acid and PEG derivatized with two CH_2CO groups.

29. (currently amended) A compound of the formula (IIa) ~~for use in targeting endothelial cells, tumor cells or other cells which express NP-1~~

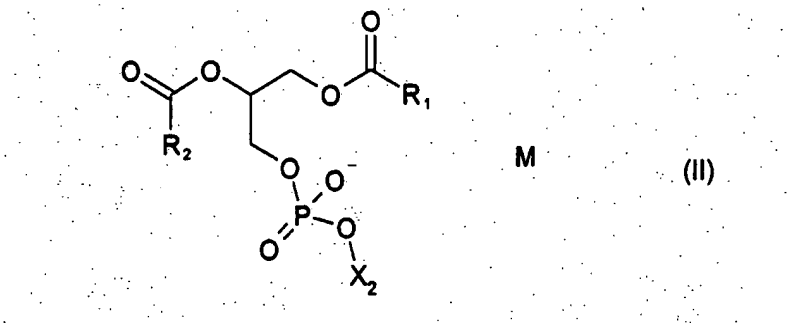
$$A\text{-}L\text{-}B_{1a} \qquad (IIa)$$

in which

A is a monomer~~, multimer or polymer~~ of TKPPR or a TKPPR analogue which specifically binds to NP-1 or cells that express NP-1 with avidity that is equal to or greater than TKPPR;

L is a linker; and

B_{1a} comprises a phospholipid moiety of the formula (II),

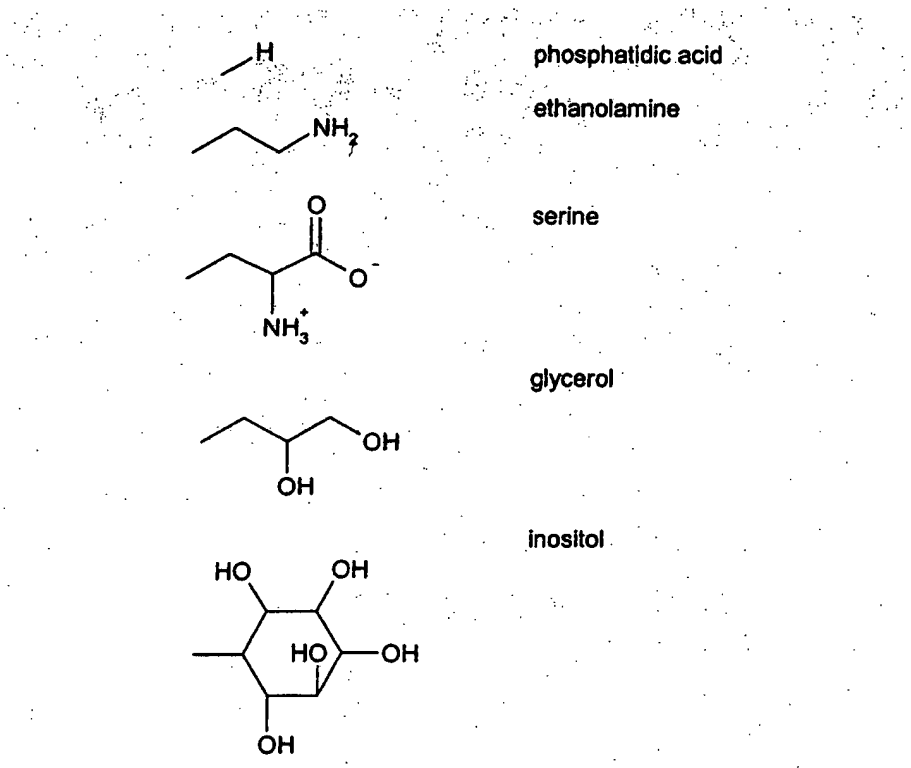


where

M is an alkaline or alkaline- earth metal cation;

R_1 and R_2 independently, correspond to a linear long chain C_{12}-C_{20}, saturated or unsaturated, optionally interrupted by C=O, or O; and

X_2 is selected from the ~~in a~~ group consisting of



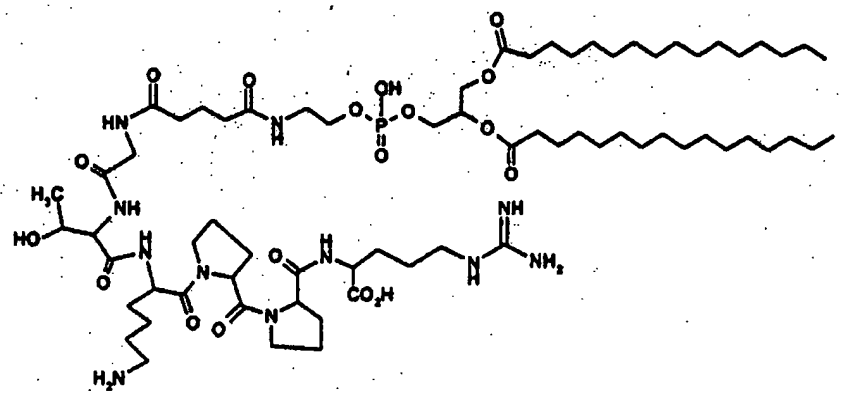
30. (original) A compound according to claim 29, in which R_1 and R_2 are independently a saturated linear long chain C_{12}-C_{20}.

31. (original) A compound according to claim 30, in which the phospholipid of formula (II) comprises a phospholipid selected from the group consisting of: dimyristoylphosphatidylethanolamine, dipalmitoylphosphatidylethanolamine, distearoylphosphatidylethanolamine, diarachidoylphosphatidylethanolamine,

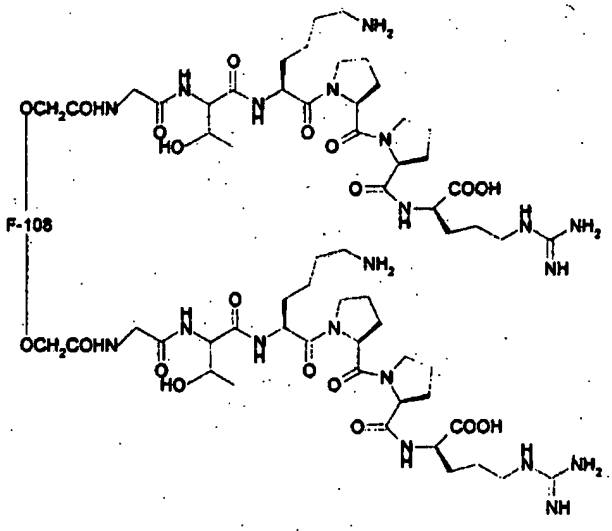
dioleylphosphatidylethanolamine, dilinoleylphosphatidylethanolamine, fluorinated analogues of any of the foregoing, and mixtures of any of the foregoing.

32. (original) A compound according to claim 31, in which the phospholipid of formula (II) comprises dipalmitoylphosphatidylethanolamine.

33. (currently amended) A composition ~~for use in targeting endothelial cells, tumor cells or other cells which express NP-1~~, comprising a compound selected from the group consisting of:



and



34. (original) An ultrasound contrast agent comprising a suspension of gas-filled microbubbles, in which the microbubbles comprise a compound of any one of claims 29 to 32.

35. (original) An ultrasound contrast agent comprising a suspension of gas-filled microbubbles, in which the microbubbles comprise a compound of claim 29 and the gas comprises a fluorinated gas.

36. (currently amended) An ultrasound contrast agent comprising a suspension of gas-filled microbubbles in which the microbubbles comprise a compound of claim 29 in which A is TKPPR monomer ~~tetramer~~ and the gas comprises SF_6, or a perfluorocarbon selected from the group consisting of C_3F_8, C_4F_8, C_4F_{10}, C_5F_{12}, C_6F_{12}, C_7F_{14} and C_8F_{18}.

Claims 37-48 (cancelled)

49. (currently amended) A method of ultrasound imaging comprising administering an ultrasound contrast agent comprising a suspension of gas-filled microbubbles, in which the microbubbles comprise a compound of the formula (IIa)

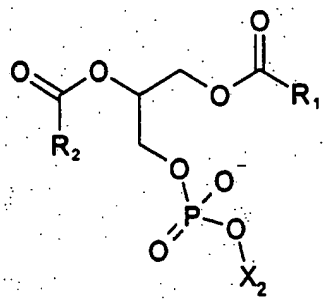
$$A\text{-}L\text{-}B_{1a} \quad (IIa)$$

in which

A is a monomer, multimer or polymer of TKPPR or a TKPPR analogue which specifically binds to NP-1 or cells which express NP-1 with avidity that is equal to or greater than TKPPR;

L is a linker; and

B_{1a} comprises a phospholipid moiety of the formula (II),



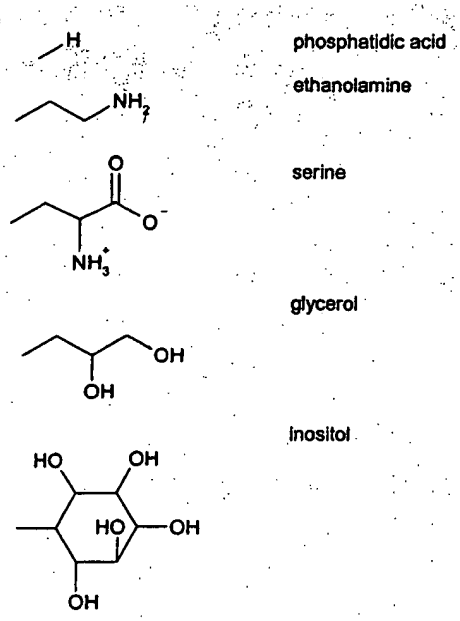
M (II)

where

M is an alkaline or alkaline- earth metal cation;

R_1 and R_2 independently, correspond to a linear long chain C_{12}-C_{20}, saturated or unsaturated, optionally interrupted by C=O, or O; and

X_2 is selected from the ~~in a~~ group consisting of



Claims 50-65 (cancelled)